the first two articles were taken — he took 24 hours two only could read & write — Yesterday Arthur rec'd a commission in the Navy as asst surgeon — he leaves for New York tomorrow with probably a board of attachment & such — he is a fine fellow & much beloved — It is only temporary — but gratifying to his friends — We are all well — Yrs affy J Ricketson

New Bedford 8 mo 4 1861

Dear Deborah,

Your last letter announcing Lucia's sudden illness has caused me much sadness — From your last letters of late I had been in hopes that she was in a fair way of recovering, but alas, how often are we disappointed in our fondest hopes — I trust however that the next news we be more favorable — Do be so kind as to inform me about her whenever you can — Though many years has elapsed since I have seen her yet I well remember that bright sparkling and cheerful countenance giving joy and satisfaction to all around. In whatever way I can contribute to your comfort in this hour of trial and sorrow that will I do most cordially — and as Henry is away — you must not hesitate in the least to call upon me — To your mother you must give Fanny's & my kindest love and you all must share it with her — I am well aware that I have been negligent in not answering several of your last letters, but my motive for so doing was that not having been very well of late I had intended almost to death & but as there was the bells would have out —

MS. A. 9.2, 30.73

to have made you a visit on the first of August, and have gone down to Abington or spent the day or two or three days with you. Having some business in Boston, I went down on Monday, and spent the evening & Tuesday & Wednesday morning with Cousin Emma Bent – I went into the city to come down to Weymouth in 5.10 train – but stopping at Mary Chapmans to inquire about you, I heard from her that you were in affliction, and I concluded to return home that evening having only ten minutes to get to the cars & was just in time – I forgot my own disappointment in my sympathy for you. May the time soon come when we can again see each other – Perhaps it was as well that I did return for Mr Warner went to New York that same afternoon – & Mr Dennis accidently hurt one of his eyes 24th ult so that he was unable to do any thing in the writing line for a day or two – I said above that I had not been well I do not have near so much head ache but the warm weather in addition to the heat from our Steam Engine has much debilitated me, to say nothing about the intense excitement about our National affairs – This "multa me cum revolvens" this deep solicitude for the lowly & humble the least one of these, has caused me almost sleepless nights, and yet above and beyond all

this bloody conflict, methinks I see the poor down trodden child of God, standing "redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled by the irresistible genius of Universal Emancipation" — Did you receive the extract of Rev Mr Potters sermon I sent you — was it not grand — Sunday after Sunday has he preached boldly and unequivocally to crowded Houses — commanding the respect of all — with a mild & gentle spirit he is as bold as a Lion, and like Richard Coeur de Lion, he wields and with an instinctive and unerring aim the weighty battle axe of the Almighty — he is now absent on a vacation having gone to Fort Monroe & was in Washington on the day of the last battle & would have gone out there, but was engaged to preach — Conway preached here on that day & singularly as it was: he was born right at the Junction & our Army passed through his Father's garden & he told me before we received the news that from his knowledge of the County, the ambuscades, woods &c that he thought our troops would be beaten unless the enemy were attacked by Patterson & McClellan on the flanks — his prediction has "fortunately" proved true — I say fortunately, because I think that it will arouse up our nation more to the true cause of the war viz Slavery

than if we had been victorious – Conway Harper
with us & we enjoyed his visit much – Mr B
Frothingham has preached twice for us & will
preach again next Sunday – Geo Ellis preaches
to day – a fortnight from to day Mr Osgood preaches
then we shall have Mr Potter again with his
guns double shotted – James Durfee Ben Horatio
was in the 71st New York Regiment in the last battle
He says they fought eight hours & it did not
seem more than one or two – the man by his side
had his leg taken off by a cannon ball killing
him & then striking the ground & knocking down
the man behind him not materially wounding
him the bullets all the while whistling across
his, over, head – he himself fired twelve Rounds
marked his man each time and every one
he saw fall – he is real Durfee the regular
Anglo Saxon pluck – I presume he looks at it in the
same light as Conway told us – that if he fought
now it would not be him but the Almighty
fighting through him – Luther Rent, Emma's husband
Connie, was at the battle of Fair Oaks, & carried
Young Lyon of Quincy 3/4 of a mile in his arms after
he was wounded – I have three trophies from
the land of "Ye cash", given me by Major Magee,
(he & Edw L are great friends) – a volume of Hymns,
a draft of a plat of Land and an ear of Corn
given him by an Old Slave woman about 99 years old
he says he was not frightened when the word of Retreat came & then he was brave

2d Page of rather sheet

4 Aug 61

Major Maggi is an Italian Exile of Noble Birth has been a teacher of French in this city for seven or eight years giving great Satisfaction is an excellent Scholar and a thorough abolitionist — I have written him a number Liberator & Anti Slavery Standards to him while at Fort Munroe — He went with our Company as a private having declined a Lieutenancy which was offered him was promoted three times during the short stay — He was seven years in the Military School at Turin, and was also seven years in the army, three of which was in actual service was an adjutant under Garabaldi in 37 year & was wounded in the leg by a Musket ball at Lavan, came over to America with Garabaldi and was with him in South America where he was wounded in the side by a Lance — He & Edw^d L Pierce had the charge of the Colored fugitives (they are not contrabands) at Fortress Munroe. He says Gen^l Butler counted the Slaves to do more work than the whites but he overruled him & made him also give them the same Rations — He says the fugitives did more work than the White troops because they kept Sober all the time — while the whites were sometimes

beastly intoxicated — The Slaves were much attached to him & cried much when he left — He told me the same as was in Pierce's letter, before that was publish He says he would not fight if it were not to free the Slaves — He was promoted to the Staff of Genl Pierce after the battle of Great Bethel but was not in the battle — when he left Genl Butler wanted him as one of his Staff officers but he declined — Col Dimmick gave him a fine sword when he left to Col Lee my friend & aide of the Gov Andrews told me in Boston that they have their eye on him & will give him & have promised him a Lieut Colonelcy in a new Regiment of which Col Wadsworth of 3d Regiment will probably be Colonel — He took tea with me since his return with Mr & Mrs Thos R Roseman — There is also another Young Italian about 20 years old who has been in the County one month named Luigi Conti — with the highest credentials from Garibaldi was in the battles of Placentia, slightly wounded twice at Solferino, & was in some half a dozen more battles all of which are on his Medal given him by Louis Napoleon — He has a 2d Lieutants Commission already just given him with pay $80 per Month — a splendid looking fellow — Spent the evening with us Thursday — Like Maggi — he says he has come to fight against Slavery & is a thorough Abolitionist — When our troops came back, Maggi & Young Conti both wore the Garabaldi Uniform & they both looked magnificently — much more could write but must now say adieu

MS. A. 9.2, 30, 73